

PRINCETON NURSERIES KINGSTON SITE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
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Figure II.1 William Flemer Sr. purchased the 80-acre Van Dyke farm, located on the west side of Mapleton Road, in 1915. The stone house, built in 1742, would be home to four generations of William Flemers. Courtesy Historical Society of Princeton. (R-PRN-HSP-Apr09-0078-VanDykeHouse-crop.jpg)



Figure II.2. During the early period of F & F Nurseries, the Kingston Site was characterized by open agricultural and clusters of associated farm buildings, as seen in this undated image. Several trees growing beside existing buildings were left in place as the landscape transitioned from farm to nursery. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-BldgCluster-Field-nd.jpg)

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Figure II.3. Linear plant rows lead to the horse barn at the Kingston Site, seen here in 1920. This structure was remodeled and enlarged in 1915. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-HorseBarn-1920.jpg)

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Figure II.4 William Flemer Sr. had a Bavarian hunting lodge-style office built just north of the main entry to the nursery circa 1918. An open lawn with scattered tree and shrub massings fronted the building along Mapleton Road. Courtesy Historical Society of Princeton. (R-PRN-HSP-RC-Office-Front-2610-Box105.jpg)

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Figure II.5. A rustic stone porte-cochere was positioned on the south end of the Bavarian-style office building. The porte-cochere extended over a gravel drive and small entry porch. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-Office-PorteCochere-c1920.jpg)

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Figure II.6. Plantings established around the foundations of the F & F Nurseries office building showcased available nursery stock and illustrated landscape uses for available plants. Beneath the vehicle in this image, the drive appears to be surfaced in fine gravel. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-Office-Truck-c1920s.jpg)



Figure II.7. Several large spruce trees lie on the ground in this circa 1920 image. The roof of the F & F Nurseries office is visible in the background. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-FallenSpruce-Office-c1920.jpg)

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Figure II.8 In this circa 1920 photograph, several large spruce trees extend across Mapleton Road by the F & F Nurseries entry. The cause of the incident is unknown. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-FallenSpruce-c1920.jpg)



Figure II.9. This circa 1920 view north shows the core Kingston Site landscape, including linear plantings and a cluster of support buildings. The office is situated to the left, southwest of the blacksmith shop. To the right is a large packing and storage shed. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-EntryCluster-nd.JPG)

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Figure II.10. Nursery stock, identified by simple stakes at the ends of the row, surround a cluster of farm buildings, located along Seminary Drive. This undated image was taken circa 1920. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-WillowFlat-WFjrHse-1920-crop.JPG)

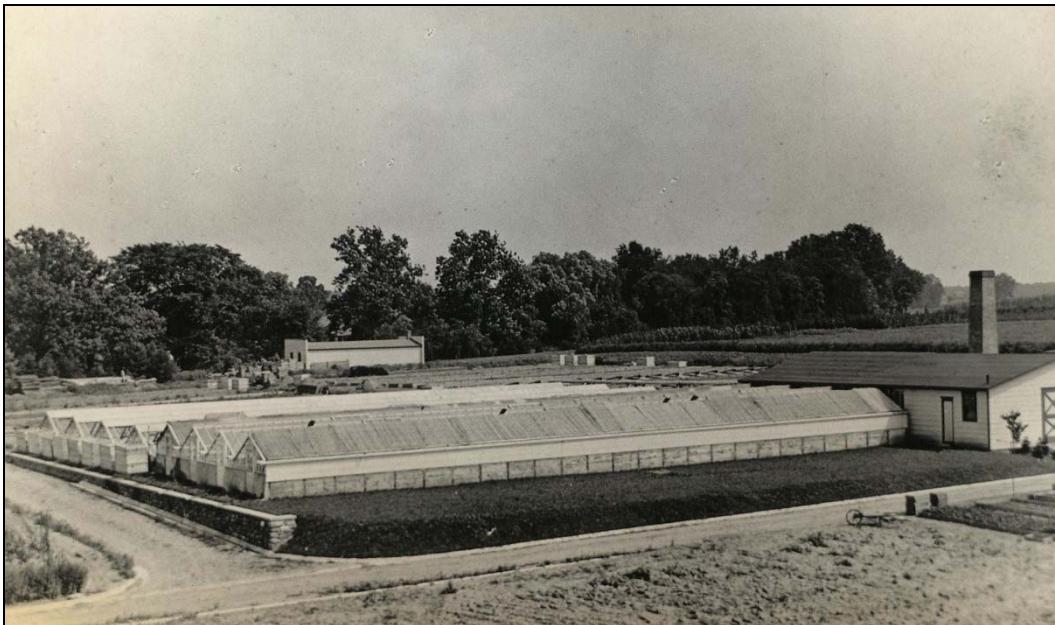


Figure II.11 Eight greenhouses extend north from the one-story propagation house in this 1926 photograph. These greenhouses here were the first to be constructed at the Kingston Site. A potting shed is visible in the background of the image, behind the greenhouse range. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-Grnhouse-PottingShed-1926-crop.jpg)

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Figure II.12. This photograph depicts expansion of the propagation house and greenhouses shortly after the initial period of construction. In the image, a partial second story has been added to the propagation house and additional greenhouses and cold frames extend south from the building. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PR N-WF4-LB-Grnhouse-Frames-1925.JPG)

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Figure II.13. This 1920s oblique aerial indicates that plant stock was grown in the operation core at the Kingston Site. Rows of plantings with a central walk located to the left of the Bavarian-style office in this image appear more formal and garden-like than other stock fields, suggesting that Flemer Jr. may have used this section as a display area. The distinct linearity of plantings and support structures is clear. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-Aerial-c1920s.JPG)

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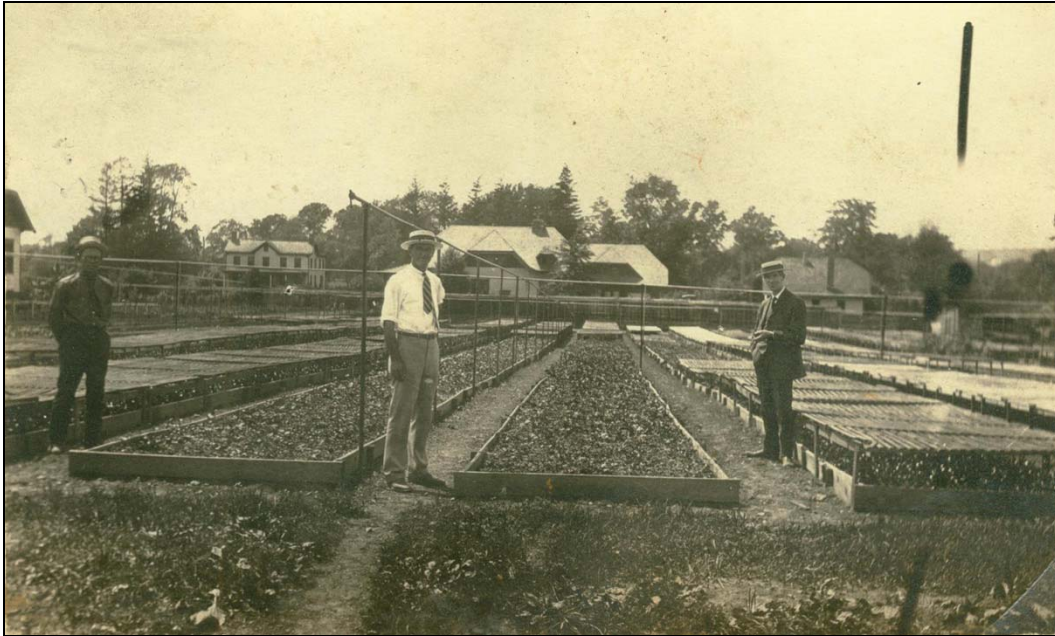


Figure II.14. A system of elevated piping provided water to plant stock, as seen in this undated photograph. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-BedsBehindOffice-nd.jpg)



Figure II.15. Wooden lath structures positioned over plant stock to protect from the sun and other natural elements extended between the greenhouses and office building. The structures varied in height according to the plant materials over which there were positioned. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-SeedBeds-GeorgeLuckSeedsman-c1920s.JPG)

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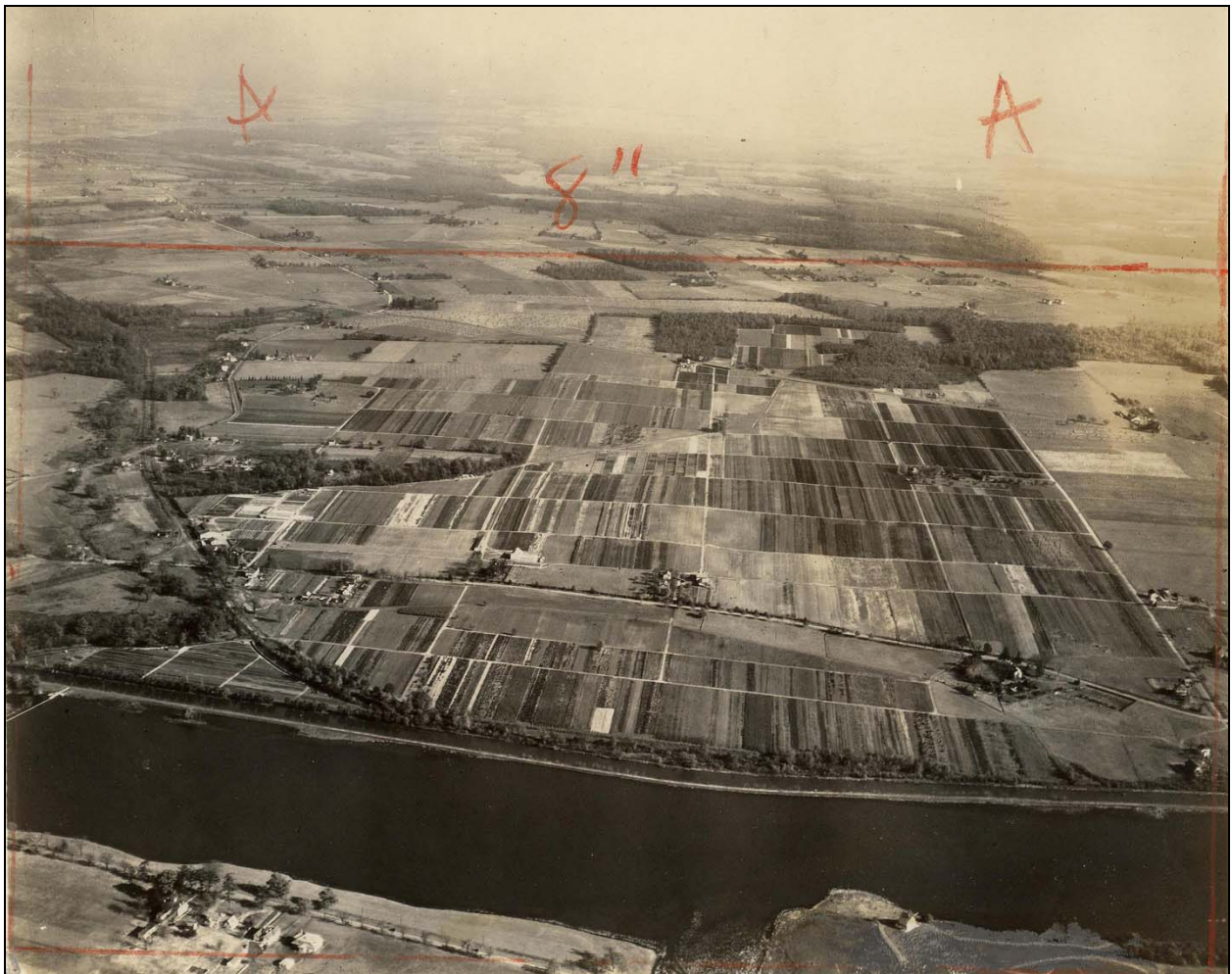


Figure II.16. Plant stock was laid out in defined east-west rows on both sides of Mapleton Road, as illustrated by this circa 1920 view east from Lake Carnegie. Beyond the operation core, a linear wooded area separates nursery operations from several houses eventually used as worker housing. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-Aerial-c1920.JPG)

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Figure II.17 This undated image shows defined rows of evergreen stock and a nursery support building in the background. Support buildings and structures at the Kingston Site were often situated among plant stock, with only a small area of open space at their periphery. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-EvergreenRows-Shed-nd.JPG)



Figure II.18. In this 1923 photograph, linear rows of plant stock are punctuated by a horse barn, visible in the background. Horses were used to cultivate the fields at the Kingston Site. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-EvergreenRows-HorseBarn-c1923.jpg)

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Figure II.19. In this 1920s image, a planted field surrounds a cluster of nursery structures, including a barn in the middleground. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-Field-Barn-c1920s.jpg)



Figure II.20. Distinct, linear plant rows extend to a wood building and mature landscape trees in the background of this 1920s-era photograph. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-PlantRows-WoodBldg-c1920s.JPG)

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Figure II.21. Access routes, similar to the compacted earth route seen in this 1918 image, allowed equipment, horses, and workers to move between planting areas. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-Qpalustris-Blk65-1918.JPG)



Figure II.22. A system of access routes throughout the nursery grounds provided access to planting areas and, together with the rows of plant stock, defined a linearity throughout the landscape. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-StakedPlants-c1920s.JPG)

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Figure II.23. Small, prominent wooden stakes were used to label plant species at the nursery. In this photograph, a stake labeled '*Rosa multiflora japonica*' is positioned at the edge of a block to identify adjacent plant materials. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-MultifloraRose-nd.jpg)

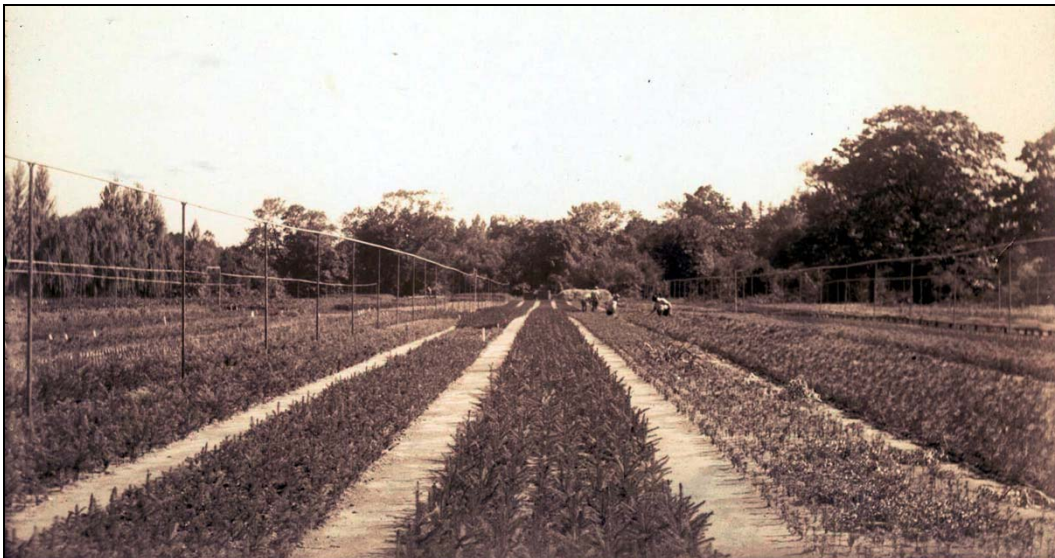


Figure II.24. An early elevated irrigation system was used in the seed bed area at the Kingston Site, seen in this 1927 postcard image. The system consisted of narrow water pipes extending above the plant stock. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-Seedbeds-Postcard-1927.jpg)

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Figure II.25. Horses were used to cultivate the production fields at the Kingston Site. In this image, a worker leads a horse between rows of evergreens. Courtesy William Flemer IV, *Princeton Products*. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-1HorseCult-1927.JPG)



Figure II.26. At the Kingston Site, some plant materials were raised in areas similar to natural growing conditions. In this circa 1931 photograph, rhododendron shrubs grow in the shade of a native oak woodland. Courtesy William Flemer IV, *Princeton Products*. (PRN-WF4-PP-Rhododendron-6-1931-crop.jpg)

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Figure II.27. The Princeton elm was developed at the Kingston Site and later proved to be resistant to Dutch elm disease. By 1924, when this image was captured, F & F Nurseries had established a healthy stock of young Princeton elm trees. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-PrnElm-Block17-1924.JPG)

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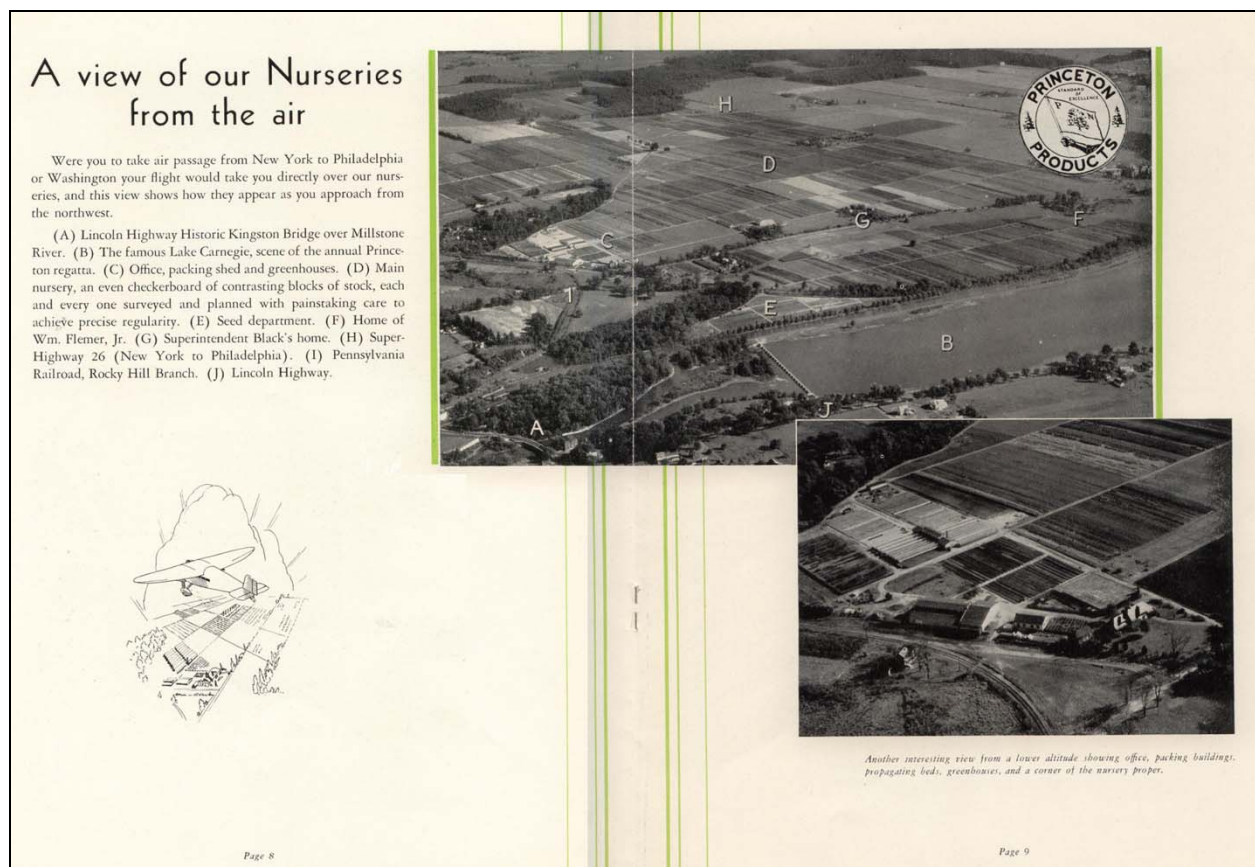


Figure II.28. In 1931, Princeton Nurseries issued a Princeton Products brochure, a portion of which is shown here. The publication included aerial photographs and helped to familiarize potential customers with the nursery's standards, products, and grounds. Courtesy William Flemer IV, *Princeton Products*. (R-PRN-WF4-PP-Aerial-8-9-1931-full.jpg)

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Figure II.29. During the Great Depression, many nurseries explored alternative options to sustain themselves during economically difficult times. Princeton Nurseries planted apple orchards and raised livestock on nursery lands, as shown in this undated photograph. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-Cattle2a-nd.jpg)



Figure II.30. By raising livestock such as pigs and steer, William Flemer Jr. helped steel Princeton Nurseries against the declining market during the Great Depression. Because of his inventive management during this period, Flemer Jr. was able to keep the expansive nursery grounds intact. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-Cattle2b-nd.jpg)

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Figure II.31. In 1930, Princeton Nurseries, the National Home Planting Bureau, and American Association of Nurserymen published a booklet to encourage homeowners to establish outdoor living rooms in their backyards. The booklet included images and drawings to illustrate this idea. Courtesy William Flemer IV, *How to Make an Outdoor Living Room*. (R-PRN-WF4-OL-Gardening-27-1930.JPG)

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Figure II.32. In 1932, William Flemer Jr. purchased an existing pipeline and constructed a reservoir, known as Wynkoop Pond, north of the core nursery landscape. This undated photograph shows the pond in the late 1940s. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-JHM-IrrigationPond-nd.jpg)



Figure II.33. Stock fields with rows of plantings cross the landscape in this undated photo. William Flemer Jr. constructed a large water tower at the Kingston Site in 1932. The tower, seen in the background, measured 125 feet tall and held 75,000 gallons; the water system it supplied had cast iron mains. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-Evergrn-WtrTower-nd.JPG)

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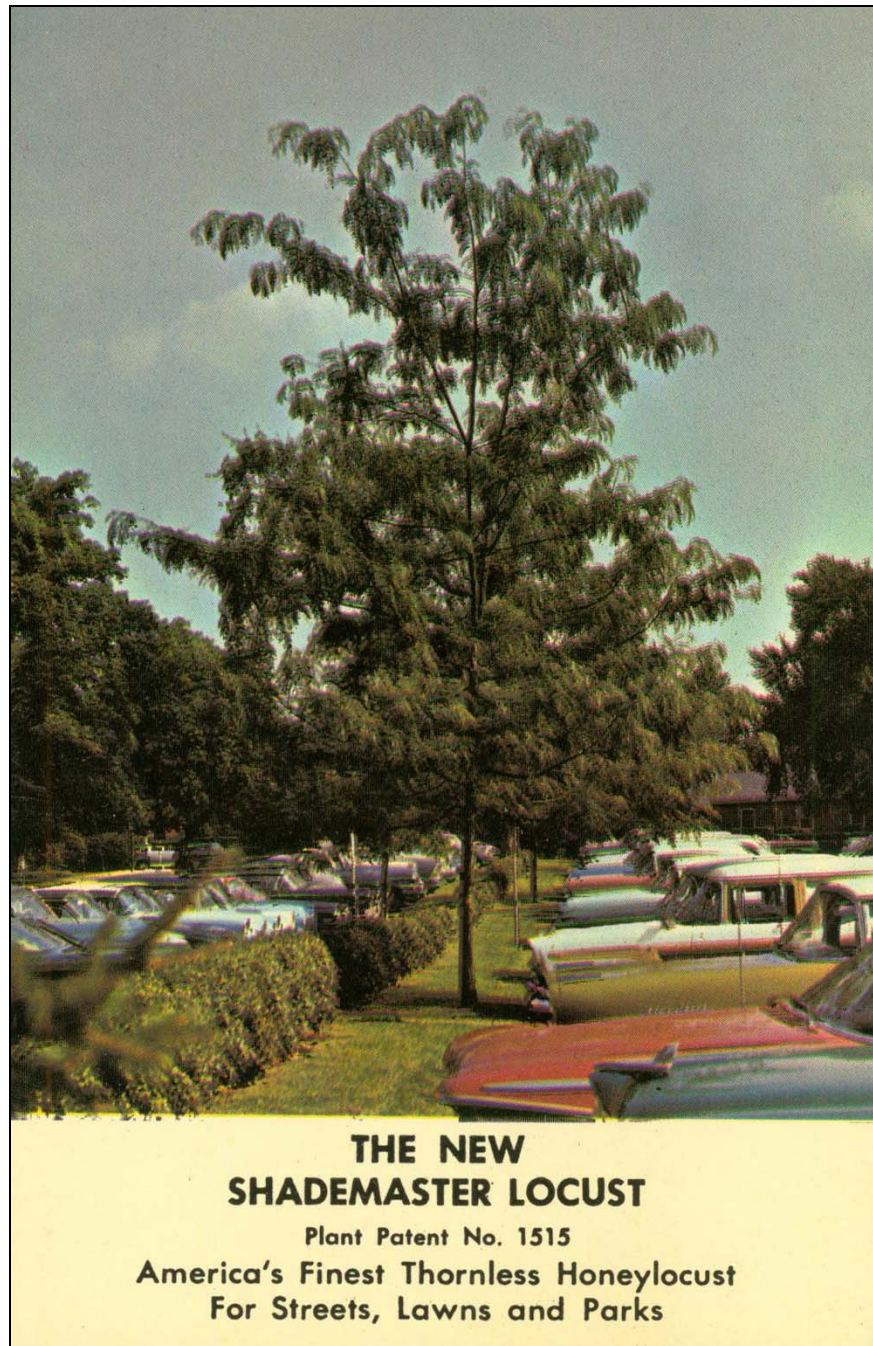


Figure II.34. During his tenure at the helm of Princeton Nurseries, William Flemer III developed a number of new plant cultivars, particularly shade trees. In 1956, Flemer III patented the honeylocust shademaster (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Shademaster'), which became a successful product for Princeton Nurseries. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-Gti-Postcard-Front.jpg)

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Figure II.35. This undated image documents a temporary plant storage area where balled and burlapped shrubs and trees await shipment or pick-up. This area was located near the nursery's packing and shipping buildings. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-JHM-PlantPallettes-nd.JPG)



Figure II.36. In 1950, a steel extension was added onto the packing shed in the operation core at the Kingston Site, shown here under construction in March of that year. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-PckingShd-2-Mar1950.jpg)

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Figure II.37. During construction of a steel and masonry addition on the packing shed in 1950, wooden poles were removed and replaced with steel. In this image, several removed poles are piled in the ground, and a horse and wagon is visible in the background. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-RemovedSupportPoles-Mar1950.jpg)



Figure II.38. A large lumber storage building was constructed at the Kingston Site in 1950. The building, seen here, was likely located north of the greenhouse ranges and east of the packing and shipping buildings. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-LumberStorage-2-Mar1950.jpg)

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Figure II.39. In 1961, an open-air lath structure was built at the Kingston Site near the packing and shipping buildings, north of the greenhouses. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-LathHouse-c1970-crop.jpg)



Figure II.40. This open-air lath shade structure at Princeton Nurseries provided shade, cooler temperatures, and protection to plant materials awaiting shipment. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-LathHouse-nd.jpg)

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Figure II.41. In the late 1960s a series of wood-frames poly houses, shown here under construction in October 1969, were constructed at the Kingston Site for container production. Princeton Sentry ginkgo trees, visible in the foreground, lined a wide road separating the new poly houses from the propagation house and original greenhouse area.. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-D22-GreenhouseConst-16Oct1969.jpg)



Figure II.42. A line of evergreen trees obscure a structure known as the ‘tree building’, constructed at Princeton Nurseries in 1969. This photo depicts the earlier, eastern portion of the building; a wider, western portion was added before 1975. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-LB-TreeBuilding-c1970-crop.jpg)

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Figure II.43. Building construction in the operation core during the 1960s both enhanced functionality and contributed a linearity to the landscape. In this view east, a wide asphalt drive and access area separates the packing and storage buildings to the north from the tree building (foreground) and lath building (background) to the south. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-Sheds-Drive-c1970.jpg)

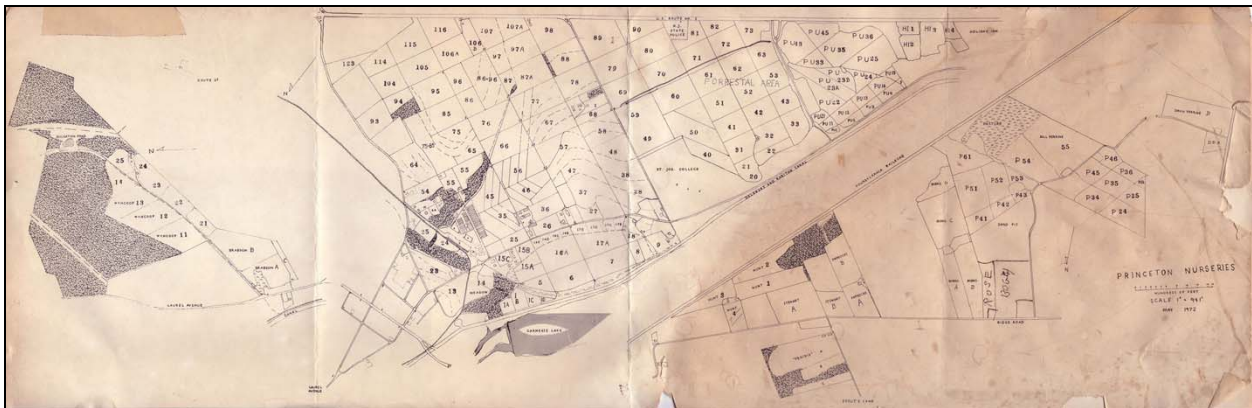


Figure II.44. The Kingston Site comprised three non-contiguous parcels, as illustrated in this 1972 plan of Princeton Nurseries. On this plan, the parcels are not illustrated in geographical relation to one another. Courtesy Kingston Greenways. (R-PRN-KGW-Plan-1972.jpg)

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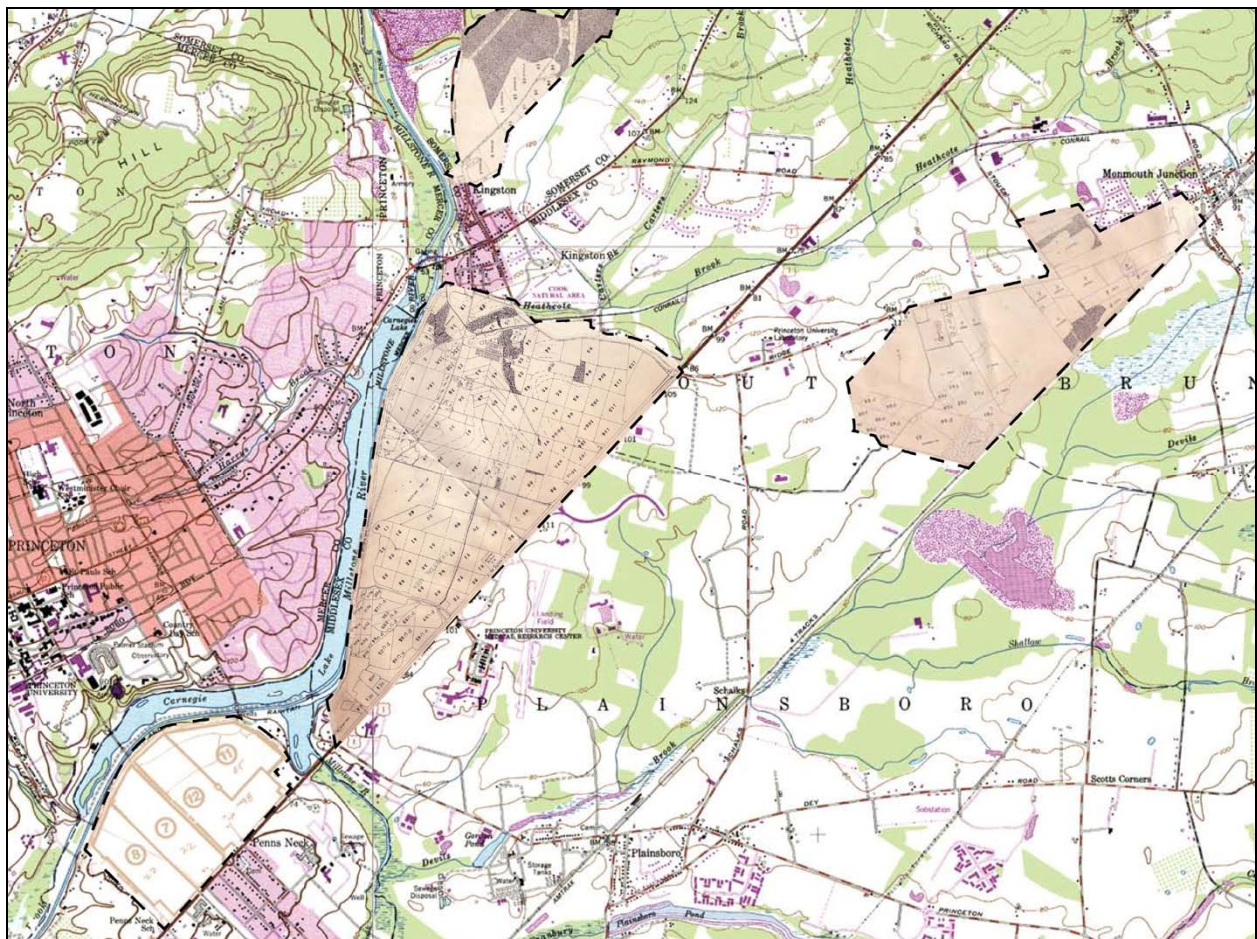


Figure II.45. In this illustration, the three non-contiguous parcels that comprised Princeton Nurseries in 1972 are overlaid on a U.S. Geological Survey map to demonstrate their geographic orientation. The correct positioning of the parcels is unclear on the original 1972 plan, illustrated in Figure II.44. Please note that this figure comes from the National Register nomination and do not exactly reflect the actual property boundaries. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-NR-USGS-Overlay-1972.jpg)

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Figure II.46. In this image from the 1980s, the linearity of the Kingston Site landscape remains strong. Nursery stock trees frame views along rows and access roads. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-TreeRows-Drive-c1980s.jpg)



Figure II.47. Striking windrows beyond low linear rows of planting stock and access routes speak to patterns of spatial organization in this 1980s photograph. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-WindRows-c1980s.jpg)

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Figure II.48. In some areas, mown turn was used between planting fields, with portions extending between rows of planting stock, as seen in this 1989 photograph. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-TreeRows-Sept1989.jpg)



Figure II.49. Ornamental trees and shrubs were planted at the Kingston Site to demonstrate the character of available planting stock. Often, the plantings showcased varieties developed by the Flemer family. In this image, a Rosy Cloud cherry, developed by William Flemer III, is positioned near the entrance to the office. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-PrRosyCloud-Office-Apr1989.jpg)

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Figure II.50. In this 1980s image, a neat row of Sentry ginkgo trees, developed by William Flemer III, separates a narrow access road and range of poly houses from a wide, compacted-earth road. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-GinkoSentry-Grnhse-c1980s.JPG)



Figure II.51. After visitors enter the nursery from Mapleton Road, segments of the asphalt drive turns north and pass in front of the office, seen here, forming two turf areas with trees and providing parking. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 1 Main Office 1984 018.jpg)

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Figure II.52. This view east to the tree building illustrates vehicular circulation patterns in the operation core. To the north and east of the main entry, the asphalt road loops north around two mown turf areas, the larger of which is shown in this photograph. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 9 Tree Storage 1984 004.jpg)



Figure II.53. The garage seen in this image is positioned west of the packing shed, at the entrance to the wide paved area that extends between the packing shed, tree storage building, and lath building. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 6 Garage 1984 002.jpg)

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Figure II.54. The paved area between the packing shed, tree storage building, and lath building, created open space for nursery vehicles to access buildings and transport stock from the production fields to the support buildings in the operation core. This area also provided access to Railroad Avenue and Ridge Road to the east. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 8 Lath Shade 1984 022.jpg)



Figure II.55. Gravel roads provided vehicular access to buildings and production fields throughout the Kingston Site. South of the operation core, two roads were positioned perpendicularly to the greenhouse and poly house cluster. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 5b Canning Building 1984 006.jpg)

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Figure II.56. Compacted dirt roads provide access to the carpenter shed, which is part of the support building cluster surrounding the worker dormitory. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 21 Carpenter Shop 1984 014.jpg)



Figure II.57. Open sheds provide storage for equipment at the support building cluster. The sheds open on the compacted dirt road, allow workers to easily enter and exit the storage space. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 22 Shed opposite Building 21 1984 014.jpg)

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Figure II.58. The compacted dirt road extends past the open storage sheds and past the machinery storage building, which provides additional protection for nursery equipment. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 26 Machinery Storage-Metal 1984 023.jpg)



Figure II.59. The 125-foot water tower constructed in 1932 remains in the landscape in this 1980s-era photograph. The tower held 75,000 gallons and supported extensive production at the site. Courtesy William Flemer IV. (R-PRN-WF4-WaterTower-c1980s.jpg)

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Figure II.60. An irrigation system with hydrants, faucets, and pipes provided water to the production fields at Princeton Nurseries. Above-ground piping, seen in this 1984 photograph, is found throughout the Kingston Site. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 56 Seed Beds Work Building 1984 035.jpg)



Figure II.61. The Flemer family constructed a swimming pool, seen here, at the southern edge of the core nursery to be used by the Puerto Rican workers who lived on site during the growing season. The FLEMERS were committed to fostering a strong and lasting relationship with these workers, and the pool was an amenity Princeton Nurseries provided its employees. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-28 Swimming Pool 1984 010.jpg)

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Figure II.62. Several buildings which predate the nursery era at the Kingston site still remain in the landscape. This farmhouse, purchased by William Flemer Sr., is positioned west of the worker dormitory and swimming pool. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Dwelling 20A & 20B Bruno Miller and Dennis Shennard Dwelling and Garage 1984 013.jpg)



Figure II.63. Rows of plant stock lead to a dormitory located west of the swimming pool, used to house workers at the Kingston Site. The building, seen here in 1984, was home to Puerto Rican workers who came to Princeton Nurseries from May to December each year. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Building 24 Dormitory 1984 016.jpg)

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Figure II.64. A number of fence types are used in the Princeton Nurseries landscape in the 1980s, including this simple post and rail construction located along Mapleton Road. Courtesy Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. (R-PRN-FPNL-Dwelling 30 Lowe_ former H Crane House 1984 024.jpg)



Figure II.65. Wooden lath structures, used at the Kingston Site for decades, shield plant stock from the sun and other natural elements in the 1982 photograph. Irrigation pipes are also visible tracing through the landscape. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-068-0183-May1982.jpg)

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Figure II.66. Burlap coverings are laid across lath structures to control sun and temperature for small plantings in nursery rows. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-068-0185-May1982.jpg)

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Figure II.67. In this August 1978 photograph, a Princeton Nurseries worker transplants Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) using a mechanical digging apparatus. A nursery is a productive landscape of horticultural plants, and thus plantings do not mature beyond a juvenile state in the agricultural landscape. The constant cycling - removal and replanting - of plant materials maintains an open, sunny landscape character. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSTU-Raulston-050-0279-Aug1978.jpg)

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Figure II.68. This Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) was extracted from the ground with a mechanical digger, resulting in a cylindrical root ball. The plan is positioned on a swath of burlap in which it will be wrapped for shipment. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0135-Aug1978.jpg)

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